

Bode's Last Years

Hunt and fish they did! In 1946 the number of hunting and fishing permits soared to 632,737—an increase of thirty-eight percent over 1945—probably the largest single year's increase in history. Almost certainly this reflected the return of servicemen, who wanted to enjoy themselves in outdoor sports, and the increased availability of civilian firearms and ammunition and other sporting tackle.

Callison states that from 1940 to 1950, while the state's population rose four and one-half percent, the number of hunters and fishermen increased by 120 percent.

The Commission, which had steadfastly refused to raise permit prices during the war, was faced with rising costs and the necessity of adding personnel in an inflationary period. In 1947 it voted a general increase in fees. The fishing permit went from \$1 to \$1.50, hunting and trapping from \$2 to \$2.50, hunting, trapping and fishing from \$3 to \$4, county hunting, fishing and trapping from \$1 to \$2, and deer hunting from \$3 to \$5; the Commission also created an archery deer hunting permit for \$5.

The lake program begun in 1945 represented a shift in thinking on the part of Bode. When he first became director he held the opinion that the proper role of a fish and wildlife agency was that of advisor and arbiter between sportsmen and landowners, that wildlife was mostly a product of private lands and that no state agency could own enough land to make much difference in the great need for recreation. Thus, emphasis was on extension-type services to private landowners.

He approved some land acquisition for refuges and demonstration areas, including some state forests, but generally opposed the Department taking on too much land. Arthur Clark had shared these sentiments, but Melvin O. Steen and State Forester George O. White had no antipathy to the Department owning land.

Gradually Bode came around to the

opinion that the Department could contribute in fisheries by providing public waters where fishing opportunities were otherwise limited. This was the so-called "big lake" program. It was voiced in a policy statement of July, 1946.

Under the policy, land for lakes of one hundred acres or larger would be acquired by the state. Sites for lakes twenty to one hundred acres would be acquired by the community and turned over to the Department for construction. Lakes under twenty acres would be acquired and built by the communities, with the state providing engineering and management advice. Priority would be given to north Missouri, where fishing waters were more limited than in southern Missouri.

The first "big lake," 273-acre Lake Paho in Mercer County, was the first lake built under the new program. Acquisition began in 1948. "Paho" is an Indian word for "first." It was opened to fishing on July 1, 1951.

It wasn't until 1955 that the Department was able to take on a "small lake" program, which became known as the "community lake" program. The first community lake was Jamesport Lake in Daviess County, started in 1955-56 and opened to public fishing May 29, 1958.

Steen launched a wetlands survey of the state, and as a result began buying land for what was to become Fountain Grove Wildlife Area. The Department bought its first upland game area, the August A. Busch Wildlife Area, with a \$70,000 donation by Mrs. August A. (Alice E.) Busch. The land had been part of the wartime Weldon Spring TNT Plant. The Forestry Division steadily added acreage in the form of state forests and tower sites, but land acquisition remained a low priority affair throughout the Bode regime. However, some twenty-nine major areas were acquired from 1937 through 1956, eighteen of them after World War II. When, in 1946, the Anglers of Missouri organization asked the Commission to begin a program of buying accesses to

streams, the matter was deferred.

In 1946, the Sixty-third General Assembly came up with two landmark pieces of legislation to the benefit of the Department and its programs. The Wildlife and Forestry Act of 1946 did away with the old 1939 statutes, under which the Department prosecuted its cases, and created a whole new set, recognizing the Conservation Commission as the body that made the rules and regulations. It made violations of Commission rules misdemeanors and provided penalties. It gave the

wildlife conservation agent broad powers to help enforce the rules, and the duties of magistrates and court officials were set out.

The Sixty-third General Assembly also passed sweeping forestry legislation, including the forest cropland law, and for the first time appropriated general revenue funds--\$150,000--for forestry purposes. Up to 1946, the forestry program had been financed with fifteen percent of the Department's hunting and fishing license funds, plus some federal monies. Department money continued to



A planning meeting in Willow Springs was recorded by the Willow Springs News in 1946. Seated left to right are: Leonard Rowe, Field Service agent; James Bailey, district supervisor; Jay Morrow, Field Service chief; Paul Tulenko, Game Section chief. Standing: George Laun, refuges supervisor; LeRoy McGeehee, fish hatchery superintendent, A. R. Mottesheard, Field Service agent; William Towell, forester; Dorris Frazier, education advisor; Asbury Roberts, chief of Protection.

The University of Missouri acquired another part of the lands at the same time. The federal government retained a small portion where, in 1957-66, processing of uranium and thorium was conducted. After the Conservation Department acquired adjacent Weldon Spring Wildlife Area from the University of Missouri in 1979, it was discovered that radiation and nitrate contamination on Weldon Spring and also the Busch Area were emanating from dump sites on the federal lands. The U. S. Department of Energy is to clean up all contamination sources in the late 1980s.

support forestry work in the state, but the general revenue funds permitted expansion of the forestry program.

Bode created a Game Section within the Fish and Game Division and promoted Paul Q. Tulenko from state project leader in Federal Aid to the post of Game chief. Maurice Baker was named state project leader. Dr. W. C. Frohne, who had worked with the U. S. Public Health Service during World War II, declined to return to the Department following the war and in October, 1946, Aden Bauman was designated as chief fisheries biologist.

Bauman was killed in an airplane crash on August 31, 1947, while inspecting experimental farm ponds. Paul G. Barnickol returned to the Department the next April as chief fisheries biologist.

Two biologists who were to earn national honors for work with the Department were hired in 1946, Jack A. Stanford and LeRoy



Arthur B. Meyer became the first farm forester in 1940. After the war, he returned to the Department to become assistant state forester in charge of timber management.



Aden Bauman, who became chief fisheries biologist after the war, was killed in an airplane crash while inspecting farm ponds in 1947.

J. Korschgen. Stanford became famed for his work with bobwhite quail and Korschgen for his expertise in wildlife food habits. Two foresters, William E. Towell and Arthur Meyer, returned from service with the U. S. Navy. Towell was promoted to assistant state forester in charge of fire control, and Meyer to assistant state forester in charge of timber management.

Biologist Carl R. Noren returned from military service and was assigned to river basin studies and as liaison between the Department and the Corps of Engineers. The Corps was undertaking a host of flood control projects now that wartime shortages of men and materials had ended. The projects could have a profound effect on Missouri, and Bode wanted to keep an eye on them.

The Field Service Section was expanded to fifteen men, with agents assigned at St. Louis and Kansas City to work with sportsmen and other conservation groups in the state's



William E. Towell, whose career with the Department began as the first forester hired by George O. White in 1938, became assistant state forester in 1948, following naval service in World War II.

two largest metropolitan areas.

The Department finally got into aviation when Biologist Harold V. Terrill went to Hatbox Field, Muskogee, Oklahoma, to pick up a war surplus plane. Terrill had been a pilot artillery spotter in World War II, so he took on piloting in addition to his other duties. He was an enthusiastic and exuberant pilot who had a lot of close calls, and many were afraid to fly with him. Conservation Agent Allen Hoefelman had been a pilot/instructor during World War II, and he gradually took over flying duties, which included enforcement, forest fire patrol, wildlife surveys and general transportation. In 1955 he became the Department's first full-time pilot.

In March, 1947, Bode organized an Information and Education Division, placing three units into one division with Dr. F. Olin Capps as division chief. Dorris Frazier was named chief of the Education Section, Harold Clover as head of the Visual Aids Section

Field Biologist Harold Terrill, poring over aerial maps, was imbued with the same enthusiasm for scientific wildlife management as the young Department for which he worked.



and C. Dan Sauls as chief of the Publications Section. The following June, Clover resigned to set up his own motion picture company and Sauls became chief of the Information Section, combining the Visual and Publications sections.

A more drastic reorganization was the creation in March, 1947, of a Field Division that embraced the Protection Division and Field Service Section. Jay B. Morrow, who had been Field Service chief was named chief of the new division. Vernon Bennett was made chief of the Protection Section, Kenneth R. Hicks chief of the Field Service Section. This reorganized Asbury Roberts out of a job!

Roberts had been a difficult man to get along with as chief of Protection. He had been continually feuding with Arthur Clark when Clark was head of the Fish, Game and Forestry Division, and the antipathy continued with Mel Steen. There was trouble between the conservation agents and biological staff as a result of the differences between Roberts and the other chiefs. Roberts was warned in August, 1946, that he had to straighten things out, but apparently he failed to do so.

He appealed the situation to the Commission, and a hearing was held on April 27, 1947. (This was the same meeting where Riley Gladden refused to testify about Roberts.) The Commission backed Bode and Roberts was discharged-the first high ranking officer of the Department to be fired. He had served a little over nine years. Roberts was generally respected, if not liked, by the conservation agent staff, but the rest of the Department disliked him and found him difficult to work with. Jay Morrow, as head of the new Field Division, brought back a measure of mutual respect and cooperation between the various divisions.

The 1946, Master Conservationist Awards went to Major General E. M. **Stayton** of Independence, Chester C. Davis of St. Louis and H. J. Waters of Columbia. In June, 1947, the Commission named Edgar M. Queeny of Monsanto Corporation a Master Conservationist at the same time it honored E. Sydney Stephens, and it was expected that Queeny would appear to claim the award at a testimonial dinner honoring Stephens in September. The award was based on motion picture



Jay B. Morrow rose from Field Service agent in 1940 to assistant director in 1949, where he lifted much of the day-to-day burdens from the shoulders of I. T. Bode. He died of a heart attack in 1956.

work Queeny had done on prairie grouse. Apparently Queeny was not impressed with the award.

Queeny did not appear at the September dinner and declined to appear at other meetings or to acknowledge correspondence relative to the award. In March, 1948, the award was withdrawn, and Queeny became the first and only person to turn down the recognition.

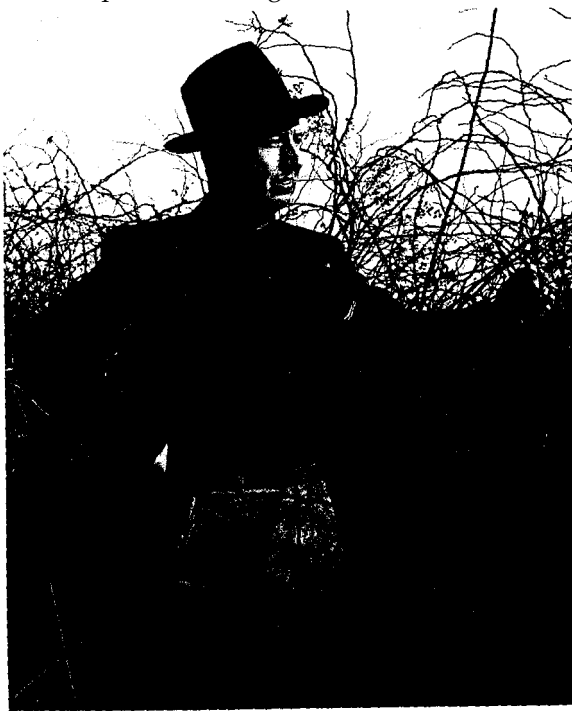
In December, 1946, Melvin Steen launched a major wildlife food and cover program. The farm pond program and earlier Korean lespedeza program had addressed some of the problems of farm game, but not all. Steen proposed a series of tests and demonstrations on various soil types to select trees, shrubs and vines that would have the best potential for bobwhite quail. He planned to put these practices on state refuges and field trial areas sponsored by sportsmen's groups. The plan called for work with the Soil Conservation Service and State Agricultural Extension Service with the eventual aim

of getting these practices adopted by the Production Marketing Administration (formerly Agricultural Adjustment Administration) so that landowners could receive payments for such practices.

Featured plants were multiflora rose as a living farm fence, with plantings of bicolor and sericea lespedeza as wildlife food plants, and Reed canary grass as an erosion control plant.

July, 1947, marked the end of Stephens second term as commissioner. He had served ten years and was sixty-six years old. Frank P. Briggs of Macon was named by Governor Phil Donnelly to replace Stephens, and Dru L. Pippin of Waynesville was named to replace Owen Turnbull, whose term also expired.

Briggs had been campaign manager for Donnelly in his gubernatorial campaign and was a college classmate of his. He was publisher of the Macon *Chronicle-Herald* and had been in politics a long time. He was former



Edgar B. Biffle headed the Department's first major wildlife food and cover program.

mayor of Macon and had served as a state senator, resigning from the state senate to accept an appointment as U. S. senator to fill the vacancy created when Harry S Truman resigned to become vice-president. He served out Truman's term but failed to be re-elected on his own.

Dru L. Pippin had experience as an agricultural extension agent and a Federal Land Bank appraiser. He operated a farm/resort on the Gasconade River and an insurance business. Both men were Democrats.

Only a few days after Donnelly announced the appointments and before Briggs or Pippin had attended a Commission meeting, the Democratic State Committee's publicity man, Cance Pool, issued a news release charging Bode has ruled the Department in a high-handed fashion and favored Republican employees.

Reporting on the appointments of Briggs and Pippin to the Commission, the release said their selection was expected to usher in a new era in state game conservation, which has been far from successful in past years. It was probably this statement, and a later one made by Republican Party publicity man Gene Powell, that caused many to think that Briggs and Pippin had been appointed to get Bode and turn the Department back into politics. Such was a widely held belief of Department employees at the time.

Pool's statement charged that sportsmen believed that game and fish were scarce in Missouri as never before and many of the policies and practices of the state Commission have brought about this undesirable condition.

The release said criticism of Bode was widespread. Bode, an Iowa Republican, has never enjoyed the confidence of Missouri sportsmen, the release declared. He has ruled the Department in a high-handed fashion, indulging in favoritism, especially in behalf of members of his own party. As a member of the State Park Board, for example, it is reported that virtually all of nearly 200 persons recommended by him for park positions are Republicans.

In response to the charges Bode challenged anyone who before has been asked what his politics are b



Dru L. Pippin was appointed commissioner in 1947. Pippin was an avid outdoorsman and strong commissioner who helped formulate opposition to dams on the Current River.

getting a job. There are two things we never inquire into when we hire anyone-his politics and how he worships.

Bode said he made very few recommendations to the State Park Board, of which he was an uncomfortable member along with Gov. Donnelly and Attorney General J. E. Taylor, both Democrats, because he knew the Park Board was political.

As to the description Iowa Republican, Bode said, I suppose I have voted the Democratic ticket as many times as I have voted the Republican ticket.

A few days later, the Republican State

Committee's Gene Powell issued a press release. The Governor is willing to sell the conservation program down the river for a few jobs to buy votes. That is why he appointed Frank Briggs to the Commission, Briggs no doubt having orders to fire Bode and hire more Democrats.

This angered Gov. Donnelly, who held a press conference to state that he had not authorized the Democratic release and charged the Republican press release was a vicious and unwarranted personal attack upon me.

Donnelly said his only reason for appointing Briggs and Pippin was to provide strong



Frank Briggs, left, and Robert A. Brown, right, were members along with Dru Pippin and Clifford Gaylord of a strongly activist Commission.

members to succeed those whose terms had expired, purely in the interest of efficiency, and on behalf of true conservation in Missouri. I deplore the political tenor of recent statements made on this matter by both state committees.

The Commission met on August 13 and transacted business with no political fireworks at all. The evening before, Briggs and Pippin had issued a statement: We are agreed that the management of our wildlife and natural resources by a non-political Commission is fundamentally sound and will be maintained as such as long as we have a voice.

Still the attacks continued. Cance Pool, unhampered by any facts, had a high old time finding fault with the Department and its programs. Finally Bode wrote to each of the commissioners, asking for a sweeping and searching investigation, not only of such rumors, reports and attacks, but of every phase of the Department's activities and its personnel since establishment.

"I respectfully suggest and request that

such an investigation be conducted in the open and that the public and the press be invited to be present. I request this in the name of common justice, to me, to my fellow workers, to the Commission and to the people of Missouri, all of whom are entitled to the facts and the truth.

Robert A. Brown Jr. of St. Joseph, acting chairman of the Commission, set a date of October 13 in the House chamber of the state Capitol for the four-man Commission to conduct an inquiry and invited anyone interested to appear. Cance Pool was specifically requested to present his charges, and the Federation asked the Democratic State Committee to order his appearance.

Pool hooted at the Commission inquiry, charging it was doomed to failure as a glaring and deliberately pre-arranged farce following which a generous portion of white-wash will be applied.

As for appearing at the inquiry, Pool declared he had no intention of becoming a performer at Boss Bode's fish and game circus. It will be Boss Bode's show from beginning to end, Pool said. He will serve as ring-master, as prosecutor, as judge and as jury. And at the conclusion none may doubt but what Boss Bode and his administration will recommend themselves most highly.

Commissioner Frank Briggs disapproved the method of inquiry set up by Chairman Brown, stating that he thought a special four-judge court—two Democrats and two Republicans—should be appointed by the governor, with Attorney General J. E. Taylor acting as prosecutor. But he agreed to carry on with the inquiry set up by Brown rather than delay the thing.

A parade of witnesses appeared before the Commission, every one supporting Bode and the Department's programs. Most telling witness was L. F. Ginger-y, secretary of the fox hunters association, who had been one of the most outspoken opponents of the conservation amendment. He declared that after watching the Commission operate he had changed his mind and felt the programs were fair and sound.

Gene Powell, the Republican party publicity man, appeared to testify that the Republican State Committee had answered Pool's

charges because, It thought that Cance Pool was setting the stage for a grab to make the Commission partisan. He said that Republicans generally thought the fish and game program had been operated on a nonpartisan basis. To Pool's charge that fish and game had declined, Powell stated that he had no trouble catching his limit of smallmouth bass near Jefferson City and he understood that deer and quail also were more plentiful than previously.

Former Commissioner Sydney Stephens testified that he considered Bode the peer of any director in the country. He declared that he had never known Bode's political affiliations and that the Commission had at all times been careful to avoid making political affiliation a requirement for staff employment.

The inquiry lasted two days and not a single witness came to complain. Bode and the Department were completely exonerated. In January, 1948, the following note was inserted into the minutes of the Commission:

The record of the investigation held in Jefferson City on October 13-14, 1947, as a result of the charges made against the Commission and its Director, has been carefully studied by the Commission. The Commission finds no evidence to support any of the charges and therefore finds that the charges are without foundation and it hereby expresses its confidence in its Director, I. T. Bode.

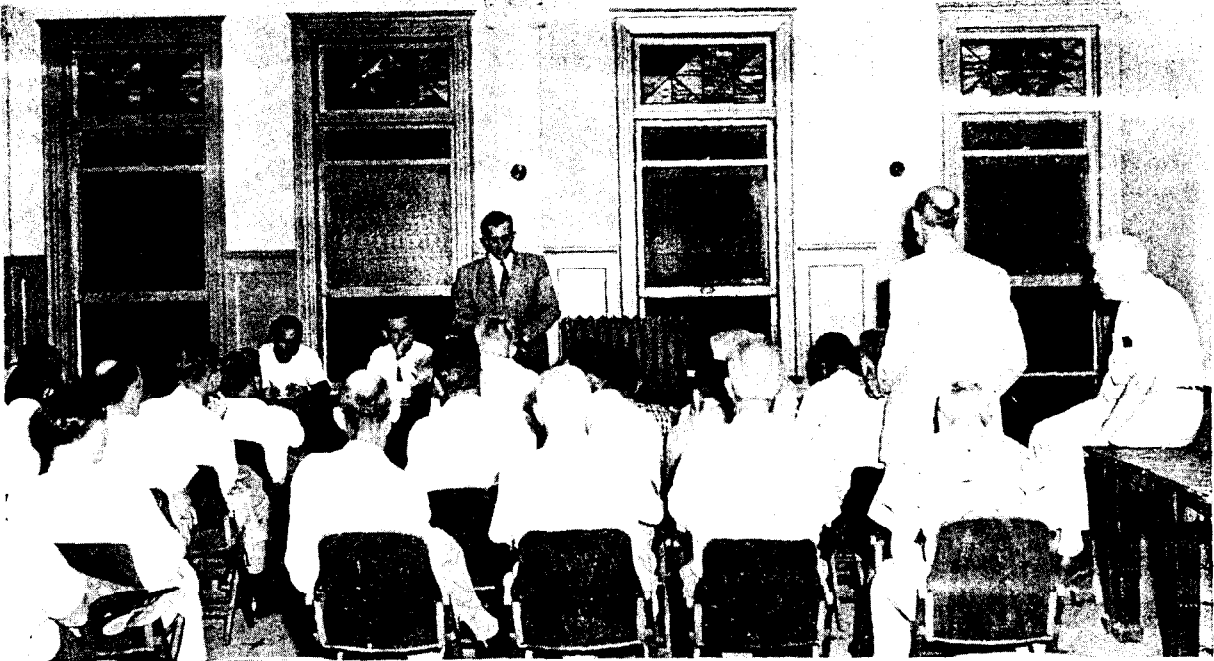
At the same meeting, Bode and Biologist Harold V. Terrill were recognized for having completed ten years with the Department (actually in 1947), the first employees to complete ten years service with the Conservation Commission. A certificate and pin were okayed for future recognitions of service.

In May, 1948, Bode established a system where new employees of the Department were to spend two days in the Central Office to acquaint them more speedily with all the various operations. This was the forerunner of the orientation given new employees today.

In September, 1949, the procedure for



The staff and their units in 1949 consisted of left to right: Forrest Olin Capps, Information and Education; Paul Tulenko, Game; Kenneth Hicks, Field Service; George O. White, Forestry; George B. Herndon, Fisheries; Melvin Steen, Fish and Game; Jay Morrow, assistant director; I. T. Bode, director; Montie Glover, Budget and Accounts; J. Warren Smith, Development; Dan Sauls, Information; Vernon Bennett, Field; Don-is Frazier, Education; and James L. Bailey, Protection.



A regulation meeting held in St. Joseph in 1955 solicited input from citizens concerned with the effect of Department policies on game populations.

establishing regulations was formalized. A regulations committee was formed, chaired by the assistant director and composed of the chiefs of Fish and Game and Field divisions and the legal counsel. In later years, representatives from Forestry Division, Information and Natural History also were members, so as to reflect the broadened interests and constituency of the Department. Today the regulations committee is composed of the deputy director, assistant director for Fish and Wildlife, legal counsel, and representatives from Protection, Fisheries, Wildlife and Forestry divisions, plus Public Affairs and Natural History sections.

An interesting sidelight into employee relations at this period was the decision to restrict employees' participation in the deer season and hunting at newly opened Fountain Grove waterfowl hunting area. In September, 1949, the Commission ruled that a Department employee on his own time may parti-

cipate in the deer season but only on the third and fourth days of the season, and must do so in a county other than the one in which he is headquartered. He was allowed to hunt at Fountain Grove also, on his own time, but applications from the hunting public will be given preference. Any employee participating in the deer season or using the Fountain Grove area shall wear no clothing or insignia or otherwise identify himself as an employee of the Department, the policy stated.

As late as 1960, the Commission ruled that Department employees might not participate in the wild turkey season, though this was repealed the following year.

E. Sydney Stephens died October 17, 1948, and the Commission saluted its first chairman with the words:

The State of Missouri acknowledges with pride the credit he brought to it and the high place of leadership and respect he won

in the nation. We have said our last God speed and happy hunting to a kind and generous friend—a man whose memory will live so long as kindness, gentleness, gracious fellowship, wisdom and high sportsmanship shall live.

Master Conservationists in 1948 were Leonard Hall of St. Louis, Mrs. Virginia Dunlap of Rivermines (the first and only woman to be so honored) and Jim Stone of Neosho.

In June, 1949, the Commission created an assistant director post and named Jay B. Morrow to it. Morrow had been serving as chief of the Field Division, and was succeeded by Vernon Bennett. In June, 1950, James L.

Red Bailey became chief of the Protection Section.

Undoubtedly the pressures of the job were weighing on Bode, and Jay Morrow took over many of the public appearance functions that had been Bode's.

In August, 1949, General Clifford W. Gaylord, St. Louis industrialist, replaced the aged and ailing Edward K. Love as commissioner. He became a part of what many consider to have been the strongest Conservation Commission to date. It was composed of Democrats Frank P. Briggs, Dru L. Pippin, and Republicans R. A. Brown, Jr. and Clifford W. Gaylord. They were opinionated, strong, determined men in their private businesses and in their positions as commissioners.

Thus, when in September the Commission issued a statement in opposition to dams on Current River, it carried a great deal of weight. When it later refused to oppose three dams on the Meramec River watershed (though it did not endorse them, either) that, too, carried a great deal of weight.²

On February 20, 1950, professor Rudolf Bennett died of a heart attack and the Commission paused to observe: The Conservation movement in the State of Missouri, the effort of the Conservation Commission, and the building of the conservation program in this state can never adequately put into words the value of the contributions made by him.



Gen. Clifford W. Gaylord was a member of the Commission during the battles over damming Ozark streams. Gaylord died in 1952 after serving only two years of his term.

Without his guidance, enthusiasm, and cordial willingness, the present foundations for the wildlife conservation program in this state could never have been accomplished. We have lost a sincere friend, an outstanding leader and teacher, and an admired co-worker.

Bennett had guided Syd Stephens in the establishment of the Conservation Commission, and had served as technical advisor to that body in the years following.

In June, 1950, it was noted that Bode's four-year term had expired, and the Commission voted to forego further four-year terms. Hereafter, Bode would serve without definite term, at the pleasure of the Commission.

Robert A. Brown Jr. was elected chairman of the Commission after Stephens retired and was re-elected for four years. He and Stephens had been chairmen for fourteen years. After

² In September, 1975, a later Commission voted to oppose Union Dam on Bourbeuse River on the grounds that it would cause severe, unmitigated losses to wildlife. In 1978, the Conservation Commission came out in opposition to the main dam on Meramec River because of unmitigated wildlife losses and the possible effects on rare and endangered plants and animals that had come to light. Undoubtedly this opposition influenced voters in the Meramec Basin when they voted to halt construction of all dams in the Basin.



A GREAT FEAT OF ENGINEERING

-From The St. Louis Port-Dispatch

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers abandoned their fourteen-year effort to dam the Current River because, according to their chief there was a preponderance of local sentiment against them.

Brown, it was established that no commissioner would succeed himself as chairman. The chair was to be alternated each year between a Democrat and a Republican, on a rotating basis.

Brown's term expired in 1951 and his successor was Joe M. Roberts of Gallatin, newspaper publisher and owner of rural telephone exchanges.

Clifford W. Gaylord died on January 7, 1952, two years and six months into his term. Roscoe B. Clark, another St. Louis businessman, was appointed by Governor Forrest Smith to finish out the term.

Briggs and Pippin's terms expired in 1953 and both were reappointed by Phil Donnelly, who was serving his second term as governor.

When R. B. Clark's term expired in July, 1955, he was replaced by Ben Cash, a Kennett automobile dealer.

In 1950 it became apparent that Congress was going to pass an excise tax on fish-



Professor Rudolf Bennett, who influenced many wildlife biologists and early Department staffers, died of a heart attack on February 20, 1950.

ing tackle to fund a federal aid to fisheries program, similar to the federal aid to wildlife (Pittman-Robertson) program passed in 1937. Anticipating passage of what came to be known as the Dingell-Johnson Act,³ Chief Fisheries Biologist Paul G. Barnickol hired some fisheries biologists. Such biologists were in short supply and the Department considered itself lucky to hire a number of them, among whom was Charles A. Purkett Jr., who would rise to head the Fisheries Division and become an assistant director.

A second big waterfowl area was approved in 1950—Duck Creek, next to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in Bollinger and Stoddard counties. The Commission paid a high \$45 per acre for much of the Duck Creek area. In 1951, the Department began acquiring land for Swan Lake Public Hunting Area.

In October, 1950, Biologist Allen Brohn, who had gone to work as a deer biologist in 1947, recommended a doe season to meet deer damage problems in Ste. Genevieve County. The Commission listened to the recommendation and approved it in principle. The staff was ordered to start an education campaign to convince the public that shooting does might be good deer management.

This started a controversy that threatened even the good will of the Federation. Its board

³ Public Law 681, the Dingell-Johnson Act, was signed in February, 1951.



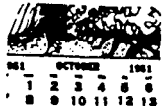
Charles A. Purkett was one of the fisheries biologists hired in 1950 in anticipation of passage of the Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid to Fisheries Act.

season was held, Taney County did allow hunting, and when the season was over, most of the opposition faded away. Even Dr. Z. Lee Stokely, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* outdoor columnist, apologized publicly for his opposition. Wildlife research had vindicated itself.

Department employees, incidentally, were permitted to deer hunt without any restrictions for the first time in 1951.

The Korean War presented a few problems to the Department. Manpower wasn't as short as during World War II but some key men were recalled to service, and new agent replacement wasn't easy. It was decided to drop written and oral examinations of agent candidates until some future general testing.

In February, 1951, Bode again reorganized the Information and Education Division. Apparently dissatisfied with Dr. F. Olin Capps as division chief, he demoted him to chief of the Education Section and replaced him with Gordon H. Smith, who had been publicity director for Missouri Valley College. Smith left the Department in 1955 and Ken-



THE WHITE RIVER LEADER

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EIGHT PAGES

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County Protests Opening Doe Season; Land Owners Close 30,000 Acres In Deer Area

A move to include does in some counties in the 1951 deer season caused a near-riot among landowners, newly educated to conservation practices, who could not believe populations warranted an any-deer season.

voted against an any deer season.

An any deer season was proposed for fifteen counties in 1951, with bucks only in seventeen counties. Most violently opposed was Taney County, where landowners threatened to shut down the county if the Commission persisted in its folly. Many other organizations and virtually all the outdoor writers in the state felt that the time was not yet ripe for such a liberal season. Many employees of the Department felt the season was a bad idea. But the biologists stuck by their guns, and the Commission backed them. The

neth R. Hicks, who had been chief of the Field Service Section, became Chief of the I and E Division. Ray M. Wells became Field Service chief.

Director Bode had been trying to find a site for construction of a headquarters building to bring the entire staff under one roof. The main headquarters was in the Monroe Building on the corner of Monroe and High Streets. It housed Bode's office, the Fish and Game Division, Fiscal, the Information Section and mail room on two floors. Across High Street, Forestry Division, Field Division



Kenneth Hicks went from chief of Field Service Section to chief of Information and Education Section in Bode's 1951 reorganization plan.

and the Education Section had quarters on two floors of the Herman Building. Down the street the Development Section had quarters over a jewelry store. They later occupied quarters on Monroe Street, in the *News-Tribune* Building. The research staffs for Wildlife and Fisheries were quartered in rented space in Columbia.

The Commission had rejected a building site on Highway 50 west of town, but in December, 1951, approved taking an option on a site on State Street, overlooking the Missouri River. A group of St. Louisans wanted to raise some funds for a Department building and Chris J. Muckerman and David F. Crossen sent \$1,000 as a start. The State Street property was later sold and is now the site of Dulle Towers senior citizen housing.

In January, 1952, the Commission established a forty-hour work week for personnel in the Central Office. Up to that time, working hours had been 8:30 a.m. to 4:30



Mrs. James A. Reed donated land for the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area in Jackson County in memory of her husband, a senator. Richard Rotsch, Kansas City metro coordinator, is pictured with her at the dedication ceremony.

p.m., with thirty minutes for lunch, plus 8:00 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. The Commission

refused to adopt a policy of retirement at age 65.

In April, 1952, the Commission accepted a gift of land from Mrs. James A. Reed-831 acres valued at \$150,000—and agreed to buy additional land up to 3,200 acres as a memorial to the late Senator James A. Reed.

In September, Bode pointed out to the Commission that he would soon be completing his fifteenth year with the Department. He stated that he felt there was danger of getting stale or in a rut. He suggested that they employ Ira N. Gabrielson, president of the Wildlife Management Institute, to conduct a study of the Department and its programs.

Gabrielson reported his findings early in 1953, remarking that Missouri's program was

one of the most progressive in the country and that he found little to criticize and much to praise. As follow-up to the Gabrielson study, Bode had the staff prepare an operating plan for the next five years, which was adopted by the Commission.

On November 1, 1952, Bode asked the governor to declare a state of wildlife and forestry emergency as late summer drouth and heat rendered the woods a tinder box. The deer season that had been set for November 6-8 was called off, as were other outdoor activities. General heavy rains abated the threat of fire and the deer season was reset for December 4-6.

The following year the drought continued, but instead of calling off hunting or fishing



The Department's top brass in 1953 were, left to right, J. Vernon Bennett, Field Division chief; Assistant Director Jay B. Morrow; Melvin O. Steen, Fish and Game Division chief; Gordon Smith, Information and Education Division chief; Montie Clover, Fiscal chief and George O. White, chief of the Forestry Division.

STATE OF MISSOURI **\$1.00**

County Resident Hunting and Fishing License

Mr. Wm. J. Barker
 of St. James, County of St. Genevieve, and State of Missouri,
 whose age is 46 years, color of eyes blue,
 color of hair black, is hereby licensed
 to hunt and fish in said county and adjoining counties until the
 first day of January after date hereof, subject to the restrictions
 and regulations of the Game and Fish Laws of Missouri, now
 existing, or enacted this year.

DATED this 1st day of May, 1939

By Wm. J. Barker COUNTY CLERK
Grace Ringwald DEPUTY

SIGNATURE OF HOLDER

1939

HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES, THEY KILL GAME."

The county resident hunting and fishing license, good in the county of residence and adjacent counties, was finally dropped in 1953.

seasons the Department launched an Every Sportsman a Fire Fighter campaign, calling on sportsmen to be careful with fire while afield, and to pitch in to suppress any fires they came across. The program was successful, and despite high fire danger, losses that could be traced to sportsmen were negligible.

Beginning in 1953, the venerable county hunting, fishing and trapping permits were abolished. They had been around since early in the century, but modern transportation had changed sportsmen's recreation habits.

The legislature got wind that the Conservation Department was considering construction of a headquarters building and passed a bill forbidding it to do so. Attorney General John M. Dalton ruled that this bill was clearly illegal.

The legislature created a new State Park Board in 1953, and Bode's connections with

that body were severed. The lands that had been bought with hunting and fishing license money, and lands acquired by donation or gift, were divided up between the new Park Board and the Conservation Department.

In January, 1954, Fish and Game Chief Mel Steen proposed some experiments with exotic pheasants. A U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, Gardiner Bump, was combing the Near East and Orient in search of wildlife that might be introduced into the United States. Steen proposed that Bump secure various strains of pheasants and that studies be made to see if any of them might prosper in Missouri. Ringneck pheasants were present in small numbers in a few Missouri counties, but Steen hoped to find a bird that would hasten the day when pheasants could be a major game bird here.

As a second year of drought tightened



its grip, Steen ordered his biologists to survey the state and report on wildlife conditions. They reported later in the summer that conditions were serious for many mammals and birds, but not grave-yet. Streams were at an all-time low and fishing conditions were bad. Fortunately, not long after the report was made, rainfall picked up and conditions eased.

A foundation set up to honor the late commissioner Clifford W. Gaylord made available to the Department, through Ducks Unlimited, a gift of \$35,000 for construction of a wildlife laboratory at Duck Creek Wildlife Area. It was named the Gaylord Laboratory, and Ducks Unlimited donated an additional \$15,000 the following year.

Bode's administrative assistant, Bettye Hornbuckle, announced her resignation in

The Department experimented with exotic species like this Reeves pheasant, left, held by biologist Ken Sadler. Bettye Hornbuckle (Gibson), below with commissioners and Bode, announced her retirement in 1954. She played an important role as diplomat and protector during Bode's sometimes stormy tenure as director.



September. She had joined the old Fish and Game Department in August, 1933, and been retained when the Conservation Commission came into being so she had twenty-one years of service. She functioned as secretary to the Conservation Commission, as well as administrative assistant to Bode. She protected Bode from many contacts and she wielded considerable power among Department employees. She was widely respected for her

smoothness in dealing with people and problems, and the Commission expressed its regret at her leaving with a resolution honoring her years of able service. She was replaced by Helen A. Cooper, whom she had selected as her successor.

The Charles W. Green Experimental Wildlife Area near Ashland was begun in 1955, with a gift of forty acres of land from Lue C. Lozier, Jefferson City attorney.



The coturnix quail experiment was an attempt to find a bird that could survive where bobwhite could not. Thousands were released, but none survived. Here, Howard Wight, wildlife biologist, releases coturnix in good quail cover.

In November of that year Mel Steen launched another of his experiments to find a game bird adapted to Missouri's conditions. This time it was an experiment to introduce coturnix quail.

On January 3, 1956, Jay B. Morrow died of a heart attack and Bode lost an assistant director and close friend. Morrow was forty-six years old at the time and had been with the Department for sixteen years. He began as a Field Service agent in 1940, and rose to become Field Service chief, chief of the Field Division, and assistant director in 1949. In that post he had taken over a lot of Bode's public contact work and excelled in dealing with people.

There had been considerable rivalry between Morrow and Mel Steen as both jockeyed to position themselves to become Bode's successor. But as it turned out, neither was destined to become director in Missouri.

William E. Towell, an assistant state forester, was chosen in April to become assistant to the director and two months later Mel Steen announced his resignation. He had accepted the director's post with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Osal B. Capps, district forester at Rolla, was promoted to Towell's post as forest fire control chief. Charles A. Ted Shanks was sent to the Hudson Bay area to band geese—the first Missouri biologist to do so.

As the summer wore on, the Commission okayed a plan to remove rough fish from Lake Wappapello as an experiment to improve angling there. It turned down a request to air condition the headquarters offices. Then in September, Bode announced his intention to resign at the end of the year.

He had turned sixty-five in February, and the pressures of the job over so many years, the loss of Bettye Hornbuckle and now Jay Morrow were apparently too much. The old warrior was tired and wanted to rest.⁴

He had come to Missouri in November, 1937, and organized the new Department, taking it to national prominence. A news item said of him, Conservation authorities through-



Ted Shanks was the first biologist sent to Canada to band geese for population research. He went on to head the Game Section in 1955.

out the nation have praised and envied Bode for the organization that, under his direction, rapidly rose to a top spot in the conservation picture. Almost universal respect was accorded him even by those opposed to some of his policies.

Bode's chief contribution to wildlife management in Missouri was his insistence that wildlife's future was inextricably bound up with agricultural practices. He insisted not only that management must be based upon sound biological facts, but must also recognize that game is mainly raised on private

⁴ There are indications that Bode had become increasingly at odds with the Commission, which consisted at this time of Joe M. Roberts, chairman, Frank P. Briggs, Dru L. Pippin and Ben Cash. It was felt that he had served long enough and that newer, younger hands should seize the tiller. It was suggested that he retire or resign and Bode became extremely angry at the suggestion, though he ultimately did tender his resignation.

lands and management plans must enlist agricultural support to be effective.

In November, the Commission appointed William E. Towell acting director. Irwin T. Bode served until December 1 and then bade his staff farewell.

Despite his aloof manner, Bode was loved and respected by that staff. In September, 1968, he returned at the invitation of the Commission to attend the dedication of a

marble lectern erected on the Department grounds. It had been designed and built with funds contributed by his former employees. A bronze plate on that lectern reads:

In honor of Irwin T. Bode, first director Missouri Department of Conservation, 1937-1957, whose wisdom and firm but gentle hand guided this new Department to success and national acclaim.



In 1965 Department employees honored Bode with a plaque and marble lectern located near the front entrance of the headquarters building. With Bode at the dedication of the plaque is Director Noren.